



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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## ***KOBRESIA SIMPLICIUSCULA*** **SIMPLE KOBRESIA**

Simple Kobresia is a grass-like plant that forms small bunches with triangular stems 10-50 cm tall. The leaves are ca. 1 mm wide, confined to near the base of the plant, and are flat or rolled. Dried sheaths and blades persist. The 3-12 small spikes are borne in a loosely congested inflorescence at the top of the stem. Each spike is 5-15 mm long, subtended by a small, brown, papery bract, and consists of a few flowers. Male flowers are located above female flowers. Each female flower is composed of a small bract and a scale that is loosely wrapped around the achene. Mature fruit in late July-August.

This species could easily be mistaken for a true sedge, but is distinguished by having a bract wrapped around the achene, rather than a closed perigynium. *KOBRESIA MYOSUROIDES*, which can occur in the same habitat, is distinguished by having a solitary spike rather than multiple spikes.